

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

SECRET

018816

COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT		25X1
SUBJECT	Unemployment	DATE DISTR.	12 May 1954	
		NO. OF PAGES	2	
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD	25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES		25X1

This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1

1. The dismissal of employed women, especially married women, continues and there are also signs of unemployment growing amongst men.
2. A 35-year-old bargeman, who was dismissed by the Czechoslovak Elbe-Oder Navigation Company in January 1954, went to the Labor Office in Decin to seek other employment. He was told that they had nothing to offer apart from long-term working brigades in the mines. The clerk at the Labor Office added that if he did not accept this, he would have to look for other work himself and then return to the Labor Office to register his new employment. He called at three different factories in Decin (the Rolling Mills,¹ CKD, and Skoda) in vain, being told that they did not have enough work for their own employees. From there he went on to the Communal Building Firm in Decin, where there were also no vacancies, and he learned that there had been 20 dismissals in December 1953 owing to slackness of work. He then decided to travel to Cheb, where he applied for work in the textile factory.² Again he was unsuccessful and, up to the end of February 1954, he was still unemployed.
3. About the middle of February 1954, workers were heard to complain of shortage of work and low wages in the Prague factory where they were employed. Some of them had been working for only three days a week. The management of the factory had offered them unpaid leave.
4. An individual employed by CKD at Ceska Lipa works three weeks only every month and during the fourth week is on unpaid leave. In this case the cause of slack employment is shortage of electric current. Electric current is allotted to each factory on a monthly quota and if it is used up within three weeks, there is no possibility of working during the fourth.
5. The Glass Factory in Svetla nad Sazavou³ is operating only two or three days a week. The factory is fully stocked up with finished goods and no further orders

25X1

SECRET

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FBI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AEC					
-------	-------------------------------------	------	-------------------------------------	------	-------------------------------------	-----	-------------------------------------	-----	-------------------------------------	-----	--	--	--	--	--

(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#")

SECRET

25X1

- 2 -

are forthcoming. In January 1954, ten women were dismissed, and twenty had been dismissed previously. There was much discontent among the workers because of the low monthly wages: 400 to 500 Kcs.

6. Up until October 1953, CKD Prague had been operating on a two-shift system. Since November 1953, the second shift has been ~~cut~~ from eight working hours daily down to two or three. In the middle of January 1954, 50 trained apprentices, mostly young single men, were dismissed. The management ordered them to report to the labor exchange in Prague for other work. The labor exchange, however, could offer them nothing apart from work in the mines and they were told that if they wanted employment more suited to their training they would have to look for it themselves. The workers who had been dismissed criticized the labor office severely, as neither they nor the trade union paid any unemployment benefits. Unemployment in CKD was due to shortage of raw materials.
7. About 200 employees used to work at the textile factory in Trebon (050/R16), 4 60 of them being women. During November and December 1953, 40 women were dismissed and by the end of February 1954 ten men also. Unemployment in this factory is also due to shortage of raw materials. Wages are 400 to 500 Kcs. monthly for women and 700 to 800 Kcs. monthly for men.

25X1

Comment: Possibly a reference to Textilia, National Enterprise, Cheb.

Comment: Probably a reference to the Bohemia Glass Works and Grinding Mill (Sklarny a brusirny "Bohemia"), National Enterprise, Svetla nad Sazavou.

Comment: Possibly a reference to Otavan, Clothing Factory, National Enterprise, Trebon.

SECRET